



THE LOOP

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
British Columbia Chapter

Issue 38 - Spring 2009

Hearing aids can make a loud statement

Toronto Star.com

David Livingstone

I've done nothing," says Mimi Shulman, summarizing her contribution to the jewelry she's been making for the last three years for Mickey Rourke.

A Toronto designer known for almost three decades for her sometimes funny, always artful jewels – as in the earrings that feature cupids swinging on ropes of little pearls or a ring that is a gold knotted snake, carried at Prime Gallery – Shulman has never been gifted in self-promotion.

About her collaborations with the Oscar-nominated actor, who wears them off-screen and on (see the ram pendant in *The Wrestler*), she would rather say nothing than say anything to suggest she is capitalizing on celebrity connections.

Having last Friday attended a presentation of new hearing technology from Siemens Canada Limited, I called Shulman to talk about hearing aids. Among the new offerings from Siemens was a line called Vibe. Delightfully small, it fits into the fold of the ear and comes in a variety of colours and patterns. They weren't designed by Shulman, but they reminded me of her.

Shulman suffered major hearing loss as a child, and part of her idiosyncratic career has been as an activist who has challenged the stigma attached to the famously invisible disability and has fought for the rights of the hard of hearing, including the right to a little style when it comes to assistive instruments. Back in the early 1990s, she pioneered the idea of making hearing aids a fashionable accessory like eyeglasses had become. She launched a line of decorative attachments including some shaped like bananas, cherubs and lightning bolts that she is still selling on her EarWear site (earwearinc.com), where the slogan is "Visibility is understanding."

That's all I needed to know. It was only by chance that Rourke's name came up, but once it did, it was as if I turned into a member of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, and I dug for every detail.

Ever the artist who made things that happen to be wearable, Shulman has never relied totally on a knack for commerce and has always applied her skills as a jeweller to the film business, working either on wardrobe or props. She met Rourke in late 2005 when he was shooting *Killshot*, a movie based on an Elmore

Leonard novel, directed by John Madden (*Shakespeare in Love*), but shelved until Rourke's comeback in *The Wrestler* prompted an opening in a few U.S. theatres only last week.

Two original characters in their own right, Shulman and Rourke "hit it off," bonding over such matters as the particular stones that he wanted for the clasp on a bolo tie.

"He's a really, really good designer," says Shulman, who ever since has been happy to execute his ideas for pieces to be worn either in life or on film. She respects his taste and enjoys that it's particular. Very particular, in fact, which explains how the handsome ring of gold and unbleached jade – which is the way Rourke takes his jade – has wound up in stock now at Prime Gallery on McCaul St. "It was a reject," says Shulman, with typically unbounded modesty.



*Mickey Rourke wears a hearing aid for his Oscar-nominated performance in *The Wrestler*. He often wears jewelry from local jewelry designer Mimi Shulman, who also designs a line of hearing aids.*

If she were a wiser business person, Shulman would have been pointing out what a great Valentine's gift it would make for some lucky guy and how those cupid earrings would be lovely for some lucky doll.

Instead, she saves her enthusiasm for the hearing aid that Rourke insisted on making part of his performance in *The Wrestler*. For that, Shulman, who sports old-school, behind-the-ear aids – in mauve – unabashedly takes credit as an inspiration. Proudly, she points to a scene wherein the washed-up Randy "The Ram" Robinson carefully places his hearing aid on a bedside table as "humanizing."

David Livingstone is a freelance fashion writer.

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Submissions may be sent to:

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE

May 30, 2009

CHHA BC acknowledges with thanks the financial assistance of the Province of B.C.



Donations, Memorials, Bequests to the Hard of Hearing/Late Deafened Fund

assist CHHA BC in its activities.

Please send donations to the

Vancouver Foundation

Suite 1200 – 555 Hastings St.

Box 12132, Harbour Centre

Vancouver, BC V6B 4N6

The Vancouver Foundation will issue receipts for all gifts. Interest from the capital is used in perpetuity for CHHA BC.

The capital remains intact.

From the President...

Hard to believe we are moving towards another National Conference...seems like we just finished the International Congress in June. It appears plans are in full gear for making CHHA National Conference one of interest to many in May, 2009 hosted by St John's Nfld. Hope many of you will be able to attend.

CHHA BC Resource Centre has been active with calls, emails, the Vancouver Wellness Show, and making some changes to the CHHA Brochure to reflect services to British Columbians. We've also hosted a number of speech reading classes taught by Maggie Dodd. The Centre is a good place to hold a class with the accessible meeting room. We need to find other accessible meeting rooms in other parts of the province so we can continue to provide services to hard of hearing and deafened persons. We're considering providing another training session in the near future for interested instructors as it has been a long while since this has last been taught. However we need to hear from people interested to take this training and implement courses in home communities.



Leslee Scott

We welcome Sharon Perry as our new Loop editor. She is a new staff member / volunteer working with CHHA. She is a bundle of energy and ideas for projects. She has agreed to take on the newsletter. We hope you imbue her with many articles for future newsletters regarding CHHA happenings and issues around hearing loss.

CHHA BC AGM will be occurring shortly after the CHHA National AGM. Please mark June 13th on your calendars and plan to attend. The guest speaker and panel will talk about accessible travel. The presentation, lunch and AGM will be held at the BC Family Resource Centre in Surrey.

If you've not seen the new videophones that are being sold, you might want to look it up. Talk about access for hard of hearing people when you can see the person you are speaking to! Granted, the person on the other end has to have the same type of equipment on their end but this opens up more possibilities for the hard of hearing and deafened. The videophones are very popular among the deaf people as they can now communicate with each other in their own language, ASL. Video Relay Services are common in the US and are urged to offer services in Canada for the hearing impaired community which has opened many doors for the Deaf community.

Sincerely,

Leslee Scott

President, CHHA-BC

Notice of Annual General Meeting

June 13, 2009

Guest Speaker: Shirley Barber

"ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL"

10 am Coffee, Meet & Greet

10:30 Speaker and panel

12 Lunch

1pm AGM

AGM



BC Family Hearing Resource Centre

15220 - 92nd Avenue, Surrey, BC

A Hard Time For The Hard of Hearing!

Respectfully submitted by R. Scott Secord, MLS

I was enjoying the social scene at a recent frat party from my UVic alma mater when the haunting cadence of a Mannheim Steamroller song came on over the stereo system.

As I bobbed my head in rhythm to the song, I leaned over to a friend and said, “Y’ know.... it’s too bad I can’t hear any of the words.” She looked at me strangely and whispered back, “That’s because there **aren’t** any words to the song!” “Oh....” I replied sheepishly, while wondering what my friend must have been thinking about me.

With a hearing loss of around 50 percent, it is common for me to miss words, but as the party went on I realized just how much this resulted in me being unintentionally cut off from conversations. Have you ever experienced similar situations of being unwittingly left out of discussions? How many times have you ever asked yourself, “Why am I listening to this? No one here is even acknowledging me by including me into their conversation!”

While participating in multiparty conversations with more than two participants, I have observed some very interesting non-verbal behaviour. For lack of a better term, I call it “*exclusionary behaviour to the third party*” – the third party being, of course, myself. This behaviour is often exclusionary to the hard of hearing, although the non-hard of hearing may experience it as well.

You know, the old adage, “Two’s company; three’s a crowd,” could well apply here. Exclusionary behaviour becomes most evident in three-way conversations. At times when I’ve been part of a three-some, and while listening to the other two people, I cannot help but get the feeling that I’ve been *eavesdropping in on their* conversation, rather than being an equal participant in *our inclusive* conversation.

So, what may account for “exclusionary behaviour”? It may be due to the sub-conscious, non-verbal mannerisms that are such a vital part of a successful conversation. Dynamically flowing conversations comprise about 60 percent timing (e.g., non-semantic), and only about 40 percent content (semantics). Timing is critical to conversational inclusion. Should a hard of hearing person fail to provide timely responses, or doesn’t succor conversational gaps with cues, then the implicit message is, “This person isn’t listening to what I have to say.” These automatic cues are what I call *conversational candy* -- sub-conscious phrases such as “uh-huhs”, “ums...” and “reallys?” that sweeten the conversational process.

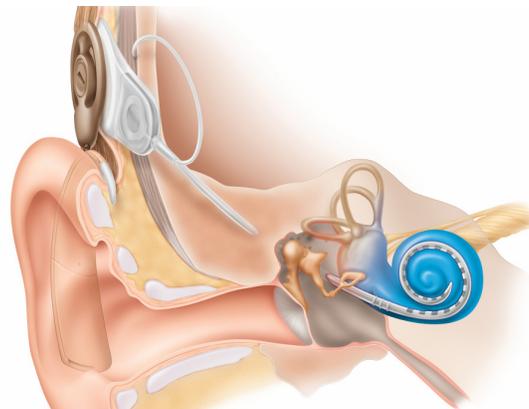
Providing timely responses is a challenge because I experience a timing delay in conversational repartee. While my brain is engaged in the process of interpreting the content of what is being said, the same conversation is progressing! Hence, what I find myself doing, is trying to play “catch-up” with the ongoing conversation. The result is that I experience *holes* in the conversation as a *whole* and become unwittingly excluded from the conversation!

Cochlear Implants in BC

By Carol Suggitt, a happy CI

We are seeing many more CHHA members as well as non-members who have Cochlear Implants. This is a wonderful thing, as it has made life far happier for many of us.

However, our clinic at St Paul’s Hospital is presently running an 18 – 24 month waitlist once a patient is determined to be a Cochlear Implant candidate. The Clinic is funded for 25 implant surgeries per year, and this quota has not changed in 7 years. A 2-year waitlist means that about 50 people are waiting to be able to hear once more!



Approximately 8 years ago many of us CI’s began to lobby the government for more funding for Cochlear Implants. The funding at that time allowed 10 patients per year to be implanted.

Our lobbying was a very successful endeavour as we were given funds for 25 surgeries a year at St Paul’s and the same was given to Children’s Hospital. These are the only 2 hospitals in BC which currently do this procedure.

May we encourage you to write to your local MLA and Provincial Health Minister about the importance of hearing and cochlear implants? If you have a CI, write them to tell how this technology has changed your life, and that of your families and employers. Request that additional funding be provided for more surgeries, to shorten the waitlist. Make it a positive message, and tell how dramatically cochlear implants change people’s lives.

Send copies to your CI team at St. Paul’s and Children’s so that they can show there is a public demand.

Links for addresses and contact info:

- Honorable George Abbott – Minister of Health
PO Box 9050, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Phone: 250-953-3547 Fax: 250-356-9587
- For a contact list for BC MLA’s, use this link:
<http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla.ca/3-4.asp>
- St Paul’s Hospital
Cochlear Implant Team
Audiology – Providence Wing Room 2600
1081 Burrard St., Vancouver, BC V6Z1Y6
- BC Children’s Hospital
Cochlear Implant Services – Room 1D-20
4480 Oak St., Vancouver, BC V6H3V4

The CHHA-BC Resource Centre is... **Your Resource Centre**

In the fall of 2008 the decision was made for CHHA-BC to continue having a booth at the Vancouver Wellness Show, held in February, 2009. At that time the Resource Centre agreed to take over the responsibilities of organizing this event. We had big shoes to fill, as Hugh Hetherington and the North Shore Branch have done an excellent job over the past number of years. With guidance from Hugh Hetherington and with the help of 16 dedicated volunteers, we managed to set up the CHHA-BC booth and we had enough volunteers in place to cover the entire 3 day weekend. **Thank-you**, to each one of you, for your hard work and dedication. We couldn't have done this without you. We were also very pleased to have had great support and assistance from WIDHH, as they worked along with us throughout the weekend. The audiologist's that were provided by WIDHH were very well received and were kept extremely busy with many questions from the people who stopped by. We look forward to taking part in this event again next year with an even bigger and better booth. We hope that you will consider getting involved with this event. It is an exciting show to take part in and we could certainly use your help.

The resource Centre has been keeping busy with many special projects on the go. The "Blue Ear Pin" has been something that we have been trying to promote in our Communities. If you have a blue ear pin, we would like to encourage you to wear it. It is surprising how many people will ask what it means, this gives us such an opportunity to share with people and to increase awareness. We were happy to be able to have an article placed in the local paper, which mentioned the Blue Ear pin and the meaning behind it. We have received a number of inquiries about this and we have been able to share more information because of this article.

Throughout the winter months there has been a Speech Reading class taking place at the Resource Centre. We would like to say "Thank-you" to Maggie Dodd for her leadership in this very successful course. We are hoping to carry on with a support group that will meet at the Resource Centre on a regular basis, when this class is completed.

The Resource Centre is here for you!

In the year ahead, we hope to make the Resource Centre more available to you. We are working hard to update and improve the Library, Equipment Loans and other Resources. Our goal is to help you to become more aware of what is available at the Resource Centre and we hope to encourage you to make use of these resources.

We would like to invite you to join us for an

Open House

at the Resource Centre

Thursday, May 28th 1:30 – 4:30

#102 – 9300 Nowell Street, Chilliwack, B.C.

Please come and join us as we recognize
Speech and Hearing Month

If you have questions, please contact us at
1-866-888-2442
chha-bc@telus.net

CONGRATULATIONS!

Ruth Warick was awarded the **2009 Celebrate Excellence Award: Disability Services** at the Annual Disability Resource Network Conference in February, 2009.

This award is given to a professional working in post-secondary education who has demonstrated excellence in providing services for people with disabilities. In addition to the commitment to excellence that Ruth demonstrates in her role at UBC, Ruth has been a tireless leader and contributor to the work of the provincial coordinators through the BC Disability Services Articulation Committee and has worked collaboratively with other post-secondary coordinators on a number of important provincial initiatives.



Vehicle Visor Cards

The BC Resource Centre has a supply of Dr. Neil Bauman's Blue Ear Vehicle Visor cards available.



The purpose is to help communicate with the police if you are stopped and cannot hear the instructions.

Please contact the Centre if you are interested in ordering one.

View the card and the leaflet at Center for Hearing Loss Help www.hearinglosshelp.com.

Bilateral Cochlear Implants – Two Ears Are Better Than One

As presented at Congress 2008 by Mark Doshier, Manager of Cochlear's Awareness Network

Summary by Terri Walker

Mark began the session by telling his personal story of how he was diagnosed with a mild hearing loss at the age of 15, and by age 32 his hearing loss was profound. His audiologist then told him there was nothing more he could do for him, and recommended a cochlear implant (CI). Mark found this out only one month before his wedding, and while he was beginning a new job as an executive in a Texas business.

It was one year later, after living in denial, that he was in an Assistive Devices supply office, and saw two women using the telephone easily, and they both had cochlear implants. He immediately called his wife – even though he couldn't hear on the phone – and just told her to make an appointment with the CI surgeon. When he arrived for his appointment, he told the surgeon that he wanted two CI's – not one. He had two legs, two arms, two eyes, and he wanted two ears again! He then had a successful surgery with two CI's.

“Cochlear's” philosophy is that everyone should have access to natural hearing: binaural hearing. The direction of sound is easily detectible, separation of sound gives stereo sound, and it decreases strain and is less tiring. Studies show that a single CI user can't localize sound, whereas a double CI user has improved hearing in sound and noise localization, as well as improved speech understanding in noise and quiet.

Mark also spoke about a time when he was talking to a father of a deaf boy, who was uncertain about his son getting two CI's. Mark

asked him to stand on one leg, and remain standing for a long period of time.

The man was starting to get uncomfortable, and needed to lean on something after a while. Then when Mark told him he could put his other leg back down, the relief on his face was evident. Mark said “That is what it will be like to hear with two CI's rather than one.”

“Cochlear” and “Nucleus” have a lifetime commitment to upgrade users to new technology, with no new surgery. Changes in the processors are always developing, and the CI user will be able to be upgraded.

A common problem is the difficulty in getting medical coverage for bilateral implantation. Points to consider:

- Be persistent with health authorities, medical providers
- Darcy, (a Calgary mother of children with CI's, helping in this session) spoke about how she, along with other parents participated in a letter writing campaign to their provincial health minister. Even after 3 denials, they persevered, including writing to their local provincial politician. They finally won the right to have a second CI for their children covered under the provincial medical plan.
- Gather as much literature as possible regarding the proven studies on performance.

Training the ears after implantation is a very necessary process – and each ear will have to be trained separately, as each ear is different. People with a longer duration of deafness before implantation will have a slower success rate than those with a shorter duration of hearing loss, but this also varies with each person.

THE TAX DETECTIVE

Marilyn Dahl – CHHA Vancouver Branch, President.



CHHA Vancouver Branch played host to Eileen Reppenhagen at its February meeting.

Eileen is a Certified General Accountant who specializes in the area of the tax administration and is particularly knowledgeable about the disability tax deduction. Her workshop, two and one half hours in length, consists of a review of the disability tax credit application, medical expenses, caregiver and attendant care details and RDSP overview. She serves on a committee to advise Canada Revenue Agency about administration of tax. This committee meets monthly to find ways to effectively communicate about disability and medical tax credits. She makes the point that many individuals do not realize the extent of what they can claim under the disability tax credit, nor, often, do their accountants. Many of the forms and data used in the workshop can be found on her web site at www.taxdetective.ca.

The presentation was broad-based, informative and provided opportunity for discussion. Eileen believes that the definition of “hard of hearing” used in the tax forms is outdated and does not adequately provide for the hard of hearing and their disability. She points out however, that it is up to CHHA to produce appropriate modifications to the act and its application in relation to the hard of hearing, and then lobby CRA in this regard. It was CHHA, in 1986-7 which convinced the CRA to add the hard of hearing to the disability deduction criteria, and who later in the 1990's convinced them to add audiologists as an authoritative source to sign the form for hard of hearing persons. CHHA Vancouver Branch is interested in developing a strategy to result in appropriate modifications to recommend to Canada Revenue Agency and will move this along in the coming year.

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association 2009 Conference

"Technology: The Gateway to Hearing Life"

When? The Conference is scheduled for **May 21-24, 2009**

Where? The venue is the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland,
115 Cavendish Square, (downtown) **St. John's, Newfoundland.**



Register by April 15/09 for the lower registration rate & book your room by April 30/09 to take advantage of the special room rates at the Hotel.

Hosted By:

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association in partnership with the
CHHA: Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter.

Schedule of Events:

- Thursday May 21: Opening ceremonies and Trade Show open to conference delegates.
- Friday May 22: Opening Plenary Session, Workshops, Trade Show and Silent Auction.
- Saturday May 23: Workshops, Silent Auction, Awards Banquet and Entertainment.
- Sunday May 24: Tours (extra cost: contact CHHA National)

Information is available at CHHA National Office:
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
205-2415 Holly Lane, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 7P2
Toll-Free: 1-800-263-8068 (In Canada only) Voice: 613-526-1584
TTY: 613-526-2692 Fax: 613-526-4718 Email: conference@chha.ca
Web-site: www.chha.ca

**** If you are going to the Conference, we'd love you to write about your experiences for publication in THE LOOP.**

Photos are also welcome! **

Would We Be As Brave As This?

Taken from CHHA Kingston Newsletter, Jan.2006

In 2004, after elections, a newscast on Ukrainian government-controlled national television had a live translation into Sign Language. The translator, Natalya Dmytruk, did not translate what the host was saying, but said (in Sign Language) the following:

"The results from the Central Election Commission have been falsified. Do not believe them. Our President is Yushchenko. I am very disgusted that I was forced to translate the lies until now. I'm not going to do it any more." She did not translate what was being said. Her bravery inspired some Ukrainian journalists to issue public apologies and promise to tell the truth. New elections were held, and Victor Yushchenko became president.

Canadian Blood Services helps Deaf donors give blood

New procedures make sign language interpreters available upon request. In Nov. 2008, Canadian Blood Services announced a new initiative making it easier for donors who are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing to give blood. Space and copyright does not permit us to publish the complete article, but it can be viewed at Canadian Blood Services www.blood.ca search 'deaf', or search 'hard of hearing', and at Medical News Today article www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/130323.php

Employment Training For HoH

CHHA National has obtained a grant from Human Resources and Social Development Canada under the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities program. The Project entitled, Creating Successful Partnerships (CSP), will provide employment enhancement assistance, and employer training to ensure successful integration of hard of hearing persons into the workplace.

Four Employment Facilitators will be **located in Ottawa, Kelowna, St. John's (NF), and Edmonton** to provide employment counselling, facilitate workshops, and co-produce written materials for the 12-month project, which will begin in September 2009.

CSP will provide job coaching, networking, technical resource training, and will provide a series of three 2-week workshops for hard of hearing participants between September 2009 and January 2010.

Employers will also receive Hearing Awareness training to help them prepare for hard of hearing interviewees, and to meet their obligations under disability and human rights legislation. Together, we can inform Canadians about hearing disabilities, and help those who are hard of hearing to have a better quality of life.

For further information contact Michel David, MSW, National Project Officer, Creating Successful Partnerships Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, 2415 Holly Lane, Suite 205, Ottawa, ON K1V 7P2. mdavid@chha.ca, Tel. 1-800-263-8068

Flying the Complicated Skies

There is no question that travel by air has become more complicated in recent years. The Canadian Transportation Agency is trying to make it easier by providing tips for travelers:

- ✓ A few days before departure, verify accessible seating and other arrangements.
- ✓ Review baggage weight restrictions. They can change. Even so, mobility aids must always travel free of charge.
- ✓ Call ahead for information about how, when and where to check in for a flight.
- ✓ Ask also about terminal amenities and services available, like the location of accessible parking.
- ✓ Pack labeled prescriptions in carry-on luggage, but almost everything else should go in checked bags.
- ✓ Smaller technical and mobility aids can be carried in the cabin, and should not be checked if they are needed during the trip.
- ✓ Larger aids are usually carried as checked baggage. Certain aids such as electric wheelchairs may not always be carried on smaller aircraft, for example airplanes with less than 60 seats.
- ✓ Ask the crew for assistance, if needed, in getting to the airplane from the check-in counter and when boarding the airplane.
- ✓ In flight, ask the crew for help to and from the washroom if needed. But they are not allowed to help a passenger inside the washroom.
- ✓ Upon landing, the airline staff must help passengers, where needed, reach their connecting flight.
- ✓ Request help if needed to retrieve checked luggage at destination.
- ✓ Learn more through the Agency's call center, and its Web publications (www.cta.gc.ca).
- ✓ These publications are also available in multiple format upon request:
 - *Fly Smart*: a helpful brochure with valuable information about flying in Canada and abroad.
 - *Reservation Checklist*: a step-by-step guide for travel agents to follow when booking a trip for a passenger with a disability. Also a good checklist for information to provide when speaking to the airline.
 - *Taking Charge of the Air Travel Experience*: a brochure that describes accessible features and services available to persons with disabilities traveling by air.



Other helpful Government of Canada Web sites:

- Accessible transportation services, including travel advice for persons with disabilities: www.accesstotravel.gc.ca
- Security screening: www.catsa.gc.ca. From the homepage, click on 'Travel Preparation' or 'Special Needs.'
- Crossing the border: www.cbsa.gc.ca. From the homepage, click on 'Travel Documents for Crossing the Border' or click on 'Publications and Forms' - 'Guides and Brochures' - '*I Declare*.'

The Agency can be reached at: By Mail: Ottawa ON K1A 0N9

Toll-free: 1-888-222-2592 Fax: 819-997-6727 TTY: 1-800-669-5575 Web site: www.cta.gc.ca E-mail: info@cta-otc.gc.ca

January 5, 2008

Sharon Perry wrote to the **Weather Network** regarding the poor quality of closed captioning, and she received this reply:

RE: Closed captioning

Thank you Sharon for your email.

The new closed captioning program on The Weather Network is a system which uses voice recognition to caption the broadcast. Our broadcast is not scripted with the exception of the newscast twice an hour. As the system "learns" the voice of each presenter the captioning will become more accurate.

We appreciate your patience as we work to improve the captioning on The Weather Network.

Regards,
Lisa Williams
Marketing & Audience Relations Coordinator
The Weather Network
Phone: 1-800-463-WIND (9463) TTY: 1.866.679.0070
Email: twntv@pelmorex.com



The Deafness of Beethoven

Submitted by: Kevan van Herd

In his late twenties, Beethoven faced the worst calamity that can befall a musician: progressive, incurable hearing loss. Yet, and such are the mysteries of genius, he simultaneously felt a flood of music rising within him and resolved to make art from his disability.

All the masterpieces of his "heroic" middle period and his "metaphysical" later years either triumph over, or transcend his aural trauma. Nevertheless, many passages in these works seem to be pathological in origin.

Demonstrating at the keyboard and with stereo recordings, Edmund Morris, Music Historian, suggests that some of the most eerie effects derive from Beethoven's tinnitus and many of the most beautiful are sublimations of other aspects of deafness.



The Colour of Friendship

Forwarded by Nick Langshaw

Once upon a time the colours of the world started to quarrel. All claimed that they were the best. The most important. The most useful. The favorite.

Green said: "Clearly I am the most important. I am the sign of life and of hope. I was chosen for grass, trees and leaves."

Blue interrupted: "It is the water that is the basis of life, drawn up by the clouds from the deep sea. The sky gives space and peace and serenity."

Yellow chuckled: "You are all so serious. I bring laughter, gaiety, and warmth into the world. The sun, moon, and stars are all yellow. One look at a sunflower, and the whole world starts to smile."

Orange started next to blow her trumpet: "I am the colour of health and strength. I carry the most important vitamins. Think of carrots, pumpkins, oranges, mangoes, and papayas. When I fill the sky at sunrise or sunset, my beauty is so striking that no one gives a thought to any of you."

Red could stand it no longer he shouted out: "I am the ruler of all of you. I am blood - life's blood! I am the colour of danger and of bravery. I am the colour of passion and of love, the red rose, the poinsettia and the poppy."

Purple rose up to his full height: "I am the colour of royalty and power. Kings, chiefs, and bishops have always chosen me for I am the sign of authority and wisdom. People do not question me! They listen and obey."

Finally Indigo spoke, more quietly than all the others: "I am the colour of silence. Without me you all become superficial. I represent thought and reflection, twilight and deep water. You need me for balance and contrast, for prayer and inner peace."

The colours went on boasting, each convinced of his or her own superiority. Suddenly there was a startling flash of bright lightening. Thunder rolled and boomed. Rain started to pour down relentlessly. The colours crouched in fear, drawing close to one another for comfort. In the midst of the clamour, Rain began to speak: "You foolish colours, fighting amongst yourselves. Don't you know that you were each made for a special purpose, unique and different? Join hands with one another and come to me."

The colours united and joined hands, and the Rain continued: "From now on, when it rains, each of you will stretch across the sky in a great bow of colour as a reminder that you can all live in peace. The Rainbow is a sign of hope for tomorrow."

So, whenever a good rain washes the world and a Rainbow appears in the sky, remember to appreciate one another.



Can you hear the world?

Hear the World is a global initiative by Phonak to raise the awareness about the importance of hearing. The initiative calls attention to the consequences of hearing loss and addresses a problem that affects more than 10% of the world's population. Bryan Adams, Rod Stewart and other renowned musicians joined forces to help *Hear the World*. Phonak has established the non-profit *Hear the World* Foundation to improve the quality of life of people with hearing loss through financial and technical assistance. The foundation is committed to the prevention of hearing loss as well as the support of people with hearing loss and their families.

www.hear-the-world.com

AN IRISH JOKE

Submitted by Carol Suggitt

An Irishman who had a little too much to drink is driving home from the city one night and, of course, his car is weaving violently all over the road.

A cop pulls him over.

"So," says the cop to the driver, where have ya been?"

"Why, I've been to the pub of course," slurs the drunk.

"Well," says the cop, "it looks like you've had quite a few to drink this evening."

"I did all right," the drunk says with a smile.

"Did you know," says the cop, standing straight and folding his arms across his chest, "that a few intersections back, your wife fell out of your car?"

"Oh, thank heavens," sighs the drunk.

"For a minute there, I thought I'd gone deaf."

Caption bloopers seen on TV

Submitted by Scott Secord

A SET A LEAN = Acetylene

ADD VERY CAT = advocate

BILLION DOLLARS EAGLES =
Bald Eagles

CARD FALLS = Cardinals

AIR BALANCE = air ambulance

FAST I HAD JUST = fastidious

EYES SEE BEE SEA = ICBC

RAPS CD = Rhapsody

JEEP USES = Geniuses

"The best things in life
aren't things"



"You can't have everything.
Where would you put it?"